GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2699
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Conservation of Wetlands
Rao (Avnthi) Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether wetlands help in flood mitigation and ground water recharge and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether wetlands alone support 20% of the known range of bio-diversity in the country;

(c) whether wetlands are decreasing due to the demands of real estate and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for identification, conservation and protection of wetlands in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) The wetlands are a big life support systems for variety of aquatic, marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. They help in control of flood & waste water treatment as well as recharging of aquifers. However, no confirmed data is available regarding percentage of biodiversity supported by wetlands.

(c) & (d) Rapid urbanization and various developmental activities alongwith other anthropogenic pressures are adversely impacting a few wetlands in the country.
The Ministry has, so far identified 115 wetlands in 24 States and two Union Territories for conservation and management under the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP)/NPCA). In order to conserve wetlands and lakes in an integrated manner, all the States/ Union Territories have been directed to constitute the State Wetlands / Lakes Authorities. They have been advised to give high priority for identifying new wetlands for conservation, delineation of their boundaries and development of integrated management plans for their conservation and restoration. Further, to regulate certain activities within the identified wetlands, the Government of India has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in December, 2010.
*****